



Coos-Carroll County FSA

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Hours

Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm

County Office Staff

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County Committee

Julie Hussey
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Farm Loans

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Farm Loan Staff

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Website

www.fsa.usda.gov

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to Bruce Savage! Bruce was elected to represent farmers from LAA #1 Lancaster, Northumberland, Dalton, Whitefield, Jefferson on the county committee (COC). Bruce was elected to his 1st term. The election results for Local Administrative Area #1 are:

Bruce Savage — Elected to the COC
Robert Elwell — 1st alternate to COC

FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.

The committee members will hold their organizational meeting January 19, 2012 to determine who will serve as the county committee chairperson and vice-chairperson.

DCP/ACRE SIGN-UP

The 2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin January 23, 2012 and will **end June 1, 2012**. Here are some important reminders:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:
 - Ownership changes
 - Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)
 - Change in crop shares arrangements

Notes: Changes cannot be made after September 30, 2012. Advance direct payments are not authorized for 2012.

Please remember to notify us of any significant weather-related losses to crops, livestock, and /or buildings.

2010 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. To be eligible in Coos-Carroll County producers must have suffered at least a 50% loss in production on at least 1 crop of economic significance, report all acreage and provide production records.

For producers to be eligible for SURE, they must have obtained a policy or plan of insurance for all crops through either the Federal Crop Insurance Act or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). Producers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource Producer, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher, are not required to purchase the catastrophic insurance. Call the county office for more information.

Sign-up for 2010 losses runs through **June 1, 2012**.

NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

In the last couple of years, weather has played a significant part in crop losses. NAP is a program that helps producers reduce their risk of financial loss when natural disasters cause losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop or agricultural commodity. The service fee is \$250 per crop per county not to exceed \$750 per producer per county. Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of service fees.

The application closing dates are:

NOVEMBER 20 - All Perennial Crops
DECEMBER 1 - Maple Sap and Honey
MARCH 15 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops
SEPTEMBER 1 - Garlic, Aquaculture,
Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng,
Mushrooms, Ornamental Nursery,
Turfgrass Sod
SEPTEMBER 30 - All Forage Crops

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are available.



Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Farm Loan Staff at 603-223-6003.

FARMING OPERATION CHANGES

If you have bought or sold land, or if you have added or dropped rented land from your operation, make sure you report the changes to the office as soon as possible. You need to provide a copy of your deed or recorded land contract for purchased property. Failure to maintain accurate records with FSA on all land you have an interest in can lead to possible program ineligibility and penalties. Making the record changes now will save you time in the spring. Update signature authorization when changes in the operation occur. Producers are reminded to contact the office of a change in operations on a farm so that records can be kept current and accurate.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

WOOL AND UNSHORN PELT LDP

January 31, 2012 is the deadline to apply for a 2011 crop year wool and unshorn pelt Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). **You must apply and provide documentation by this date!**

LDP rates are announced every Wednesday. At the present time, the payment rate is \$0.00 per pound of ungraded shorn wool. The payment for unshorn pelts is calculated as follows 6.865 lbs. X ungraded wool rate = price paid per pelt.

Eligible producers must have beneficial interest in the pelts, owned the lamb for at least 30 calendar days before the date of slaughter and sell the unshorn lamb for immediate slaughter. To qualify for payment, pelts must have been produced by an eligible producer from live unshorn lambs of domestic origin in the United States.

Producers must also comply with wetland conservation and highly erodible land conservation provisions on all lands they operate or have interest in.

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll environmentally sensitive land in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible, participants and land must meet certain requirements.

ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME (AGI) CERTIFICATION

Producers who enroll in USDA programs are required to certify to their adjusted gross income in order to participate. This information is also confirmed with the IRS by filing a CCC-931. This form enables the producer to both certify to income and give permission to allow the IRS to review the return information. Producers who have not filed a CCC-931 in the county office for 2012 must complete these forms to be eligible for program participation. The form is available at the county office or on the web at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/cc931>

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.



IRS FORM 1099-G

Producers annually receive CCC-1099-Gs detailing payments producers have received from the Commodity Credit Corporation. The annual report of program payments on CCC-1099-Gs is a service intended to help our customers report taxable income. It is not intended to replace the producers' responsibilities to report income to IRS.

FSA staff cannot interpret IRS regulations or advise producers about which payments to report on their income tax returns. However, county office staff can review payments for accuracy.

FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25% of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

APPEAL PROCESS

After an FSA official makes a decision on your request for USDA services or application, you will be sent a letter informing you of the decision and options you can pursue if you disagree.

Generally, program participants have three choices — an informal review with the original agency decision-maker, an opportunity for mediation and finally an appeal to the next level of authority within the agency.

CUSTOMER STATEMENT

January signals the beginning of a new year, and a time to starting thinking about filing taxes. Producers who have signed up for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account will be able to access their farm data via their Customer Statement.

The Customer Statement puts a range of USDA services and programs into a single report that's at your fingertips and available online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It allows USDA customers to view their participation, application and payment status in various commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15%, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85% of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different.

Payments may be made in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50% of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain.
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

There are exceptions to the rule, where spouses may not sign on behalf of each other for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar entities.



HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established. If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:
www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation:
www.blackfarmcase.com or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, individuals should contact the county FSA office staff directly or by phone.

FSA ADOPTING GOVDELIVERY

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail.

FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient. Moving to electronic notifications via email will help conserve resources and save taxpayer dollars.

County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers can now subscribe to receive free e-mail updates by going to: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Ongoing	Conservation Reserve Program
January 31	Deadline to apply for 2011 Wool & Unshorn Lamb Pelts Loan Deficiency Payment
February 20	Office Closed—George Washington Holiday
March 15	NAP deadline for Annual crops (spring seeded)
May 28	Office Closed—Memorial Day
June 1	2010 SURE Sign-up deadline 2012 DCP Sign-up deadline